

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 9 of page 7 as follows:

A single manifold ~~portion~~ port 18 or multiple manifold ports 18 as shown in Figure 1 extend from the manifold assembly 14 for attaching and fluidly connecting ancillary apparatus to a lumen extending through the guide catheter. Each manifold port 18 includes a lumen terminating into either a common lumen or a dedicated lumen extending within the shaft assembly 12 (e.g., a guidewire lumen). Functionally, the manifold assembly 14 additionally provides a convenient place for a physician to apply longitudinal or rotational forces in order to manipulate the guide catheter during a medical procedure.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 12 as follows:

Current manufacturing processes compensate for the loss of curve retention by adding filler material, or alternatively, by using stiffer materials within the curved regions 22. Although these modifications increase curve retention, their addition also decreases the flexibility of guide catheter 10 within these curved regions [[32]] 22. Moreover, a loss in flexibility within the curved regions [[32]] 22 of the guide catheter 10 may also significantly alter the overall performance of guide catheter 10. Specifically, the guide catheter's trackability is often affected. For guide catheters 10 having curves 22 imparted within the distal regions of the guide catheter 10, the effect on trackability performance can be quite significant. The present invention provides a polymeric treatment for curved regions [[20]] 22 in shaft assemblies that increases curve retention without affecting the flexibility within these regions.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 16 of page 17 as follows:

The benefits of modifying the outer tubular member 44 may be transferred to the inner tubular member 42, and thereby, to the balloon dilatation catheter 40 as a whole. Because of the spatial relationship within the multi-lumen catheter assembly, the outer tubular member 44 restrains the inner tubular member 42. Therefore, modifying the outer polymeric structure of tubular member 44, in effect, also modifies the performance characteristics experienced by the inner tubular member 42. Nucleating agent modifications to the outer tubular member [[42]] 44 are similar to those with reference to the guide catheter assembly [[16]] 10 of Figure 1.